

### **AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application.

#### **Listing of Claims**

1. (Previously Amended) A medal keeping and paying system comprising: at least one medal keeping and paying server apparatus, the medal keeping and paying server apparatus comprising,

medal keeping means for counting and keeping at least one input medal,

medal paying means for paying the at least one medal if a payment signal is input,

right person information inputting means for inputting right person peculiar information for identifying a right person such as physical information to authenticate the right person,

operation information storing means for storing at least count information of at least the medal keeping means,

right person information storing means in which the right person peculiar information for identifying the right person such as the physical information to authenticate the right person is previously stored,

a memory for temporarily keeping information which is being processed such as the count information of the medal keeping means, and

a processing section which

authenticates a right person from the right person peculiar information input from the right person information inputting means and the right person peculiar information stored in the right person information storing means, and which

outputs, when the right person is authenticated, a payment signal to the medal paying means and controls payment of a medal from the medal paying means, and

a plurality of medal keeping and paying client apparatus comprising:

medal keeping means for counting and keeping an input medal;

medal paying means for paying a medal if a payment signal is input;

right person information inputting means for inputting right person peculiar information for identifying a right person such as physical information to authenticate a right person;

right person information storing means in which the right person peculiar information for identifying the right person such as the physical information to authenticate the right person is previously stored;

a memory for temporarily keeping information which is being processed, wherein the information comprises the count information of the medal keeping means; and

a processing section which

authenticates a right person from the right person peculiar information input from the right person information inputting means and the right person peculiar information stored in the right person information storing means, and

when the right person is authenticated, the processing section outputs a payment signal to the medal paying means, and controls the payment of a plurality of medals from the medal paying means, wherein each of the processing sections of the medal keeping and paying server apparatus and each of the plurality of medal keeping and paying client apparatus include a network interface, and the processing sections cooperate to connect between the medal keeping and paying server apparatus and each of the plurality of medal keeping and paying client apparatus through a network, and

the processing section of the plurality of the medal keeping and paying client apparatus is enabled to input at least the count information of the medal keeping means and the right person authorization information in each of the plurality of the medal keeping and paying client apparatus to the operation information storing means of the medal keeping and paying server apparatus through the network interface to store and renew the information, and is enabled to access the operation information storing means through the network interface to output the payment signal based on the count information of at least one medal stored in the operation information storing means, and

the processing section of the server medal keeping and paying apparatus is also enabled to input at least the count information of at least the medal keeping means and right person authorization information in the medal keeping and paying server apparatus to the operation information storing means of the medal keeping and paying server apparatus through the network interface to store and renew the information, and the processing section is enabled to access the operation information storing means through the network interface to

output the payment signal based on the count information of the at least one medal stored in the operation information storing means.

2. (Withdrawn) A medal keeping and paying system according to claim 1, comprising a server's medal keeping and paying apparatus having the operation information storing means, and a client's medal keeping and paying apparatus,

the client's keeping and paying apparatus comprising, medal keeping means for counting and keeping an input medal, medal paying means for paying a medal if a payment signal is input, right person information inputting means for inputting right person peculiar information for identifying a right person such as physical information to authenticate a right person, right person information storing means in which the right person peculiar information for identifying the right person such as the physical information to authenticate the right person is previously stored, a memory for temporarily keeping information which is being processed such as the count information of the medal keeping means, and processing section which authenticates a right person from the right person peculiar information input from the right person information inputting means and the right person peculiar information stored in the right person information storing means, and when the right person is authenticated, the processing section accesses the operation information storing means through the network interface, outputs a payment signal to the medal paying means based on the count information of a medal on deposit stored in the operation information storing means, and controls the

payment of the medal on deposit from the medal paying means, wherein the number of the client's medal keeping and paying apparatus is increased through network, and wherein

at least the count information of the medal keeping means and the right person authorization information in the client's medal keeping and paying apparatus to the server's medal keeping and paying apparatus through the network interface, each input information is stored and renewed in the operation information storing means, the client's medal keeping and paying apparatus can access the operation information storing means of the server's medal keeping and paying apparatus.

3. (Original) A medal keeping and paying system according to claim 1, wherein the number of medal keeping and paying apparatus having the operation information storing means is two.

4. (Withdrawn) A medal keeping and paying system according to claim 2, wherein the number of medal keeping and paying apparatus having the operation information storing means is two.

5. (Original) A medal keeping and paying system according to claim 1, wherein the right person information storing means stores the right person peculiar information, and is an information record card possessed by a right person,

the medal keeping and paying system further comprises information reading means for reading the right person peculiar information from the information record card,

the processing sections processes the right person peculiar information read from the information record card by the information reading means to authenticate the right person.

6. (Withdrawn) A medal keeping and paying system according to claims 2, wherein

the right person information storing means stores the right person peculiar information, and is an information record card possessed by a right person,

the medal keeping and paying system further comprises information reading means for reading the right person peculiar information from the information record card,

the processing section processes the right person peculiar information read from the information record card by the information reading means to authenticate the right person.

7. (Amended) A medal keeping and paying system according to claims 3, wherein

the right information storing means stores the right person peculiar information, and is an information record card possessed by a right person,

the medal keeping and paying system further comprises information reading means for reading the right person peculiar information from the information record card,

the processing section processes the right person peculiar information read from the information record card by the information reading means to authenticate the right person.

8. (Withdrawn) A medal keeping and paying system according to claims 4, wherein

the right information storing means stores the right person peculiar information, and is an information record card possessed by a right person,

the medal keeping and paying system further comprises information reading means for reading the right person peculiar information from the information record card,

the processing section processes the right person peculiar information read from the information record card by the information reading means to authenticate the right person.

9. (Amended) A medal keeping and paying system according to claims 1, further comprising

index information inputting means for inputting index information to read out the right person peculiar information from the right person information storing means,

wherein

the processing section processes the right person peculiar information read out by the input index information to authenticate the right person.

10. (Withdrawn) A medal keeping and paying system according to claims 2, further comprising

index information inputting means for inputting index information to read out the right person peculiar information from the right person information storing means, wherein

the processing section processes the right person peculiar information read out by the input index information to authenticate the right person.

11. (Amended) A medal keeping and paying system according to claims 3, further comprising

index information inputting means for inputting index information to read out the right person peculiar information from the right person information storing means, wherein

the processing section processes the right person peculiar information read out by the input index information to authenticate the right person.

12. (Withdrawn) A medal keeping and paying system according to claims 4, further comprising



index information inputting means for inputting index information to read out the right person peculiar information from the right person information storing means, wherein

the processing section processes the right person peculiar information read out by the input index information to authenticate the right person.